Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Application Number 09/842,694 REQUEST Filing Date April 27, 2001 First Named Inventor ISAO KOBAYASHI **CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)** Group Art Unit 2826 TRANSMITTAL Examiner Name J.P. Mondt Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. Attomey Docket Number 03500.013077.1 See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA). This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filling a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 a. Previously submitted Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered). ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_ iii. **Enclosed** 01/06/2003 SFELEKE1 00000031 09842694 Amendment/Reply i. 750.00 OP 01 FC:1801 Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) ii. 110.00 OP 02 FC:1251 iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Other Amendment iν. Miscellaneous Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period

Name (Print/Type) John A Krauss Registration No. (Attomey/Agent) 24,613
Signature Date January 2, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

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